

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

November 2014 – Week 3

Air Date: November 9 – November 15 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: AN HONEST NEWSMAN MAKES GOOD

NOVEMBER 1954, AND AN UNLIKELY HERO IS REVEALED.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

NOVEMBER 14, 1954. CUERO. KEN TOWERY IS MANAGING EDITOR AT THE SMALL TOWN CUERO RECORD. WHEN HE NOTICES WHITE BUSINESSMEN MEETING WITH BLACK VETERANS AT THE COUNTRY CLUB, HE ASKS WHY.

HE'S WARNED TO BACK OFF.

A FORMER WORLD WAR II P.O.W., TOWERY'S NOT EASILY PUT OFF. HIS ARTICLES UNRAVEL A COMPLEX LAND FRAUD THAT SENDS TEXAS LAND COMMISSIONER BASCOM GILES TO PRISON.

TOWERY BECOMES A NATIONAL SYMBOL FOR THE VICTORY OF THE COMMON MAN. HE WINS A PULITZER PRIZE - AND USES THE PRIZE MONEY TO PAY BILLS.

IN 2003, KEN TOWERY DONATED HIS PRIVATE PAPERS TO THE SAME AGENCY HE HAD BATTLED SO LONG AGO.

KEN TOWERY BROKE THE VETERANS LAND BOARD SCANDAL 60 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Elizabeth Kaderli, "VETERANS' LAND BOARD SCANDAL," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mqv01>), accessed October 30, 2014. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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